rity and other important matters were appreciated by the Soviet lea» ders.

Star War Programme

2374. SHRI BHAGATRAM MANHAR:

SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent meeting of the Sovist physicist and Human Rights Com-paigner with the US Secretary 01 State on the development of "Star Wars" programme; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction ol the Indian Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have seen press reports of a meeting between US Secretary of State Mr. Georga Shultz and Soviet physicist and Hu-man Rights campaigner, Mr. Andrei Sakharov.

(b) Government's position on the "Star Wars" programme is well known. It has repeatedly called foi prevention of an arms race in outer spaec.

Setting up of an Atomic Power Plant in South India

2375. SHRI M. A. BABY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Atomic Power Plant in South India particularly in KeraU to cater the power requirement of tha State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the exact location of the plant; and

(c) if the reply to part (a) is in the negative, whether there is any other project under Government's conside ration to cater the power require ments of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) The Site Selection Committee of the Department of Atomic Energy has evaluated various sites in the Southern Electricity Region including those in Kerala for setting up future nuclear power stations. The report of this Committee is under the consideraion of the Government. Irrespective of the physical location of future atomic power stations in a region, it is the intention of the Government to ensure that power from such stations would be made available to all the States of the region on an equitable basis.

Talks with Michael Armcost, U.S. tinder Secretary

2376. SHRI S, S. AHLUWALIA:

DR. FAGUNI RAM:

SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of talks between U.S. Under Secretary of State Michael Armcost and Indian officials during the recent visit to Delhi; and

(b) what progress has been made in the talks between the External AF fairs Minister of State and King Zabir Shah and also between the information Secretary and Afghan officials in Kabul?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AF. FAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) These talks resulted in a better understanding of each other's percep. tion of key international issues.

(b) Both sets of talks underlined the importance that India attaches to ! Afghanistan. It is hoped that they